

In re: Bellekens et al.  
Serial No.: 10/510,271  
Filed: October 5, 2004  
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### **REMARKS**

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application that is reflected in the Official Action of January 13, 2006 (the "Action"). Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 12-16, 19 and 20 are allowed and that Claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-5, 7-11 and 22-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103 over various references. Applicants submit that the above amendments place the claims in condition for allowance as indicated by the Action. In particular, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the general recitations of Claim 6 and intervening Claim 5 (with minor clarifying amendments), which the Action indicates is allowable. The term "sealing members" in original Claim 5 and the term "strips" in original Claim 6 have been amended in Claim 1 to recite "sealing strip members" for clarification. A minor clarifying amendment has also been made to Claim 16. Claims 2-6, 11 and 23 have been canceled. Claims 7-10 and 22 depend from allowable Claim 1 and are at least patentable per the patentability of Claim 1. Such amendments are made without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a continuation and/or divisional application directed to the previously presented claims.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that pending Claims 1, 7-10, 12-16, 19-20 and 22 are in condition for allowance.

#### **Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.**

Applicants note that the Examiner's reasons for allowance on page 6 of the Action includes language generally tracking portions of different ones of the allowed independent claims. Applicants understand that the Examiner has provided generalized comments but that each of the independent claims is patentable in light of the respective recitations contained in those claims.

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course.

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Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 24, 2006.

  
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